

Subj: Media Ownership policy  
Date: 1/25/03 2:56:22 PM Central Standard Time  
From: Diva dede  
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Please forward this to the appropriate FCC committee or chairman. As a citizen, who is the "public trust." I believe the FCC is responsible for protecting it. It should not be swayed by corporation who see \$\$\$ signs and nothing else. We need to keep freedom of speech, information, news and entertainment "for the people" alive. DO NOT TAKE OUR PROTECTION AWAY! We do not need monopolies offering us nothing but drivel. I'm enclosing an article from "Shoptalk" a Media Internet magazine. Diana Rios

January 27, 2003

RE: FCC's Powell's Comments On Ownership If, like Sgt. Friday, Mr. Powell wants the facts, look at them. The effects upon radio of the massive consolidation has been the virtual extinction of radio news. In Tallahassee, FL--the Capital of the fourth largest state, twenty-five years ago there was a vigorous competition in LOCAL radio news, covering everything from fires, to the soft underbelly of the Capitol. News was a drive-time fixture. Today, only the local NPR offers anything. The consolidated commercial stations offer canned morning shows from Tampa and who knows where else. It's inane, it's all about boobs and other sophomoric fascinations. We have no newscasts, not even a national newscast. Oddly enough, the NPR station far outdraws the commercial, computer driven drivel. An "underwriting" spot is more expensive--but no commercial broadcaster will try it. Our TV news has been reduced to a series of pretty blonde newsettes reading press-releases they rewrote, or coverage of called news-conferences--this from a station that 20 years ago sent people to jail as the result of their investigative reporting!

Mr. Chairman--on the basis of the facts, you need to go "backwards" not forwards. The product of hands-off deregulation is dreck. Sinclair promises we can look forward to "local" news produced many states away--by people who have never been in the market. The dream of a local media--the original, brilliant concept behind American broadcasting is virtually extinct...just a few more nails and it will be done. The regulation of the past created a type of businessman--the broadcaster--who liked profit and believed his license was a sacred trust and his station did more than print money. That broadcaster has been replaced by a juiceless bunch of accountants. Don't make the damage any worse.